

PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL
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THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

A Letter from Natalie...



Mark your Calendar

November 3th & 4th
FCPS Holiday
NO SCHOOL

Thursday November 6th
Picture Day for 2s, 3/4s

Friday November 7th
Picture Day for CDO, 3s, & 4s

Monday November 10th
November Board Meeting
7:30pm

November 17th thru 18th
CDO and 2s
Parent Teacher Conferences

Saturday November 22rd
Barnes and Noble Fundraiser
Schedule TBD

Tuesday November 25th
Thanksgiving Luncheon 3/4s & 4s

November 27th & 28th
Thanksgiving Holiday
NO SCHOOL

Saturday December 6th
PNS Holiday Shop
10am-1pm

The *Providence Pages* is published for Providence Nursery School, Inc. Please send submissions to Elizabethccarroll@gmail.com by November 20th for December's issue.



I cannot believe October is over, the school year is moving so fast. November has arrived bringing along with it beautiful trees and some colder weather. I hope all the kids enjoyed their chance to dress up and show off their Halloween costumes to their friends. I know I loved seeing the costumes! I also can't wait to see all the sparkling smiles on picture days, November 6 & 7. We've made many wonderful memories at PNS so far this school year and will make many more in the coming weeks as we enter into the busy holiday season.

Please mark your calendars for these important dates: School is closed on November 3rd and 4th due to FCPS teacher work days. Our monthly board meeting will be held in the Big Room at school on November 10th. We have one of our biggest fundraisers of the year on Saturday, November 22nd at Barnes and Noble. Bring the kids out for a morning of fun which will include story times, sing-alongs and more. Finally, school is closed on November 27th and 28th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Looking ahead to December, we have the PNS Holiday Shop on December 6th. This is a fantastic and fun event for the children to buy presents for Mom, Dad, Grandparents, etc. It's also a great way to earn some volunteer hours. Our fundraising committee works incredibly hard on this event and they need your help. Please contact Liz Claeys or Alex Erickson if you can give some of your time, any amount would be appreciated.

In the spirit of the season, I'd like to thank all PNS families for all you do for our children and our school. Your generosity and dedication to Providence Nursery School is amazing and I really appreciate you.

Wishing you a warm and relaxing Thanksgiving,

Natalie

CDO & 2's

It's time to get out the jackets and sweaters, because there's a chill in the air! November is also a time for being thankful and, fortunately, we have plenty to be thankful for this month, from warm clothes and food to our friends and families.

The first full week in November, we will be appreciating some important people in our community: doctors, dentists, and paramedics. We'll read all about what doctors and dentists do, drive our toy emergency vehicles around the classroom ("wee—ooo!"), and get out our collection of medical instruments and dress-ups to use. We'll also talk about ways to stay healthy and avoid spreading germs.

In the second week, we will be focusing on food and the kitchen. We'll do some pretend cooking and grocery shopping; create art with real vegetables, and make music with kitchen utensils. Then, in the third week, we'll talk about our Five Senses and examine some foods closely using

our senses of smell, sight, and taste. We'll observe the many colors of fruits and vegetables, and practice sorting by color.

These topics, of course, lead us up to the main event: Thanksgiving! We'll have Thanksgiving-themed crafts, dress-ups, and stories. In the last short week of November we'll learn about being thankful and saying "thank you," and then head off to Thanksgiving break ready for food, family, and thanks.

Our first Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for the 17th (CDO) and 18th (2s), during which we will have a chance to discuss your child's individual experience in class and any questions or concerns you might have.

There are many things for which I am thankful... and working with your wonderful children in this caring school community is one of them!

Ms. Auten

PICTURE DAY!

School Picture Day is coming soon!

November 6th & 7th is Picture Day at Providence Nursery School. Your child was provided with a Picture Order Envelope. Please complete the envelope and have them bring it to their teacher before Picture Day. If you did not receive an envelope or have misplaced it, please contact me, Lori.thomas23@gmail.com. The 2's and 3/4's classes will be photographed on November 6th and CDO, 3's, and 4's will be photographed on November 7th.

Remind your preschooler to smile big!



The holiday season is here! It seems like it starts with Halloween and continues nonstop right through New Year's Day. Everybody's getting excited about travel plans and visits, feasting and football. It's hard to tell if we're shivering from excitement or just the colder weather.

We'll do our best to stay focused on our plans for the month. Our first theme is Magnets. They push. They pull. They stick to some things, but not others. We'll experiment and try to figure it out. Then we'll talk about a favorite subject: Food. It's such an important part of our everyday life and holiday celebrations, too. The Big Room will become a food market and we can "play with our food" at the art table. Next we will investigate ways that we use our Senses. There are so many things to experience this time of year. Then it's Thanksgiving time! We'll talk about family plans for celebrations and also try to think of things we are thankful for. This can start some very interesting conversations!!

I'm pleased to say that everyone caught right on to the job system and it's apparently very exciting to check in each morning and discover whether you have a job or a day off.

A few reminders:

November 7th is School Picture Day, so pick out that perfect outfit and schedule those haircuts! We won't have any messy projects that day, so the nice clothes will be relatively safe.

The popular Barnes and Noble Fundraiser is on November 22nd. It's a great way to support our school, maybe get some volunteer hours and just have lots of fun. The holidays are just around the corner and books make great gifts for everyone.

Please check the spare clothes basket to make sure that there are seasonally appropriate clothes in there and that any items that have been used lately have been replaced. Also, on those really cold days, remember to send hats and mittens for our playground time.

In this month of Thanksgiving, I can definitely say that I am thankful to be spending time with such a great bunch of kids and with such dedicated and helpful parents. You all make it fun to come to school!

Miss Susan



November is traditionally a month to give thanks. At Providence, we have so much to be thankful for...terrific children, caring parents, a fabulous facility, and a whole month to celebrate our blessings! This month is filled with learning about Autumn, food, the first Thanksgiving, and the importance of sharing with others. Our weeks will be crammed full of fun as we talk about Autumn (11/3), food (11/10), Thanksgiving (11/17), and Our Feast (11/24). My Monday group will be looking at the letters L, T, and N during the month.

Our traditional Providence Thanksgiving feast will take place on Tuesday, November 25th and we will be celebrating with the Fours' class. We will all be doing some of the food preparation and cooking in addition to the feasting. Although space does not allow us to invite parents to eat with us, a few extra hands to help with final details would be greatly appreciated. I will be posting a sign-up sheet later in the month listing some foods that will be needed...if anyone can help, that would be terrific! Lunch Bunch will be Fun Bunch that day...no lunch will be necessary!

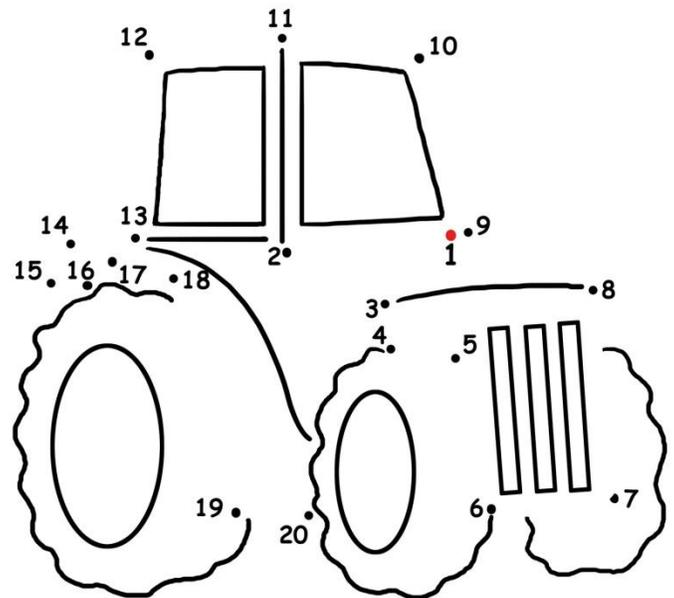
Important dates for November: No school on the 3rd and 4th (Fairfax Co. Public School holidays) and November 27th (Thanksgiving). Our field trip for this month will take place mid-month when we go "behind the scenes" for a special tour of a Whole Foods grocery store to support our food week. (It is definitely one of my favorite field trips for this age group!) Details will follow soon.

Please remember to change seasons with the clothes in my "emergency basket"...and to label all those hats and mittens. Star of the Day is a great success – I think being line leader is the

favorite part of the job. Show 'n Tell is also going well. I really appreciate your effort when you encourage your Star to bring something that relates to the topic of the week (and that fits into the "sharing can, too!").

I am having a great time with your kids! They have all become good friends with each other...and I love listening to their conversations! Lastly, I hope you are enjoying your co-op days as much as I enjoy having you with me! Happy Turkey Day to all!

Jane Millward



In our house, November feels like a month that revolves around food, family and feasts (and quite a bit of football too!). Of course, we also spend a lot of time talking about all the things for which we are thankful. This is a great month to talk to our kids about doing for others. I encourage you to spend some time talking to your children about these same ideas and letting them participate in a meaningful way in helping others.

In our class at PNS we will also spend the month talking about food, family and feasts, as well as helping others and being thankful. We will have an opportunity to help fill the Providence Presbyterian Church's Food Pantry toward the end of the month. Children from the 3/4s and 4s class will help carry up donations left in at PNS.

The week of November 3, we will spend our three day week discussing how **Manners** help us consider other people's feelings. We will also focus on important social skills like active listening, waiting to speak, turn taking and using "I-messages" to express our feelings. We will be reviewing the Letters F, P, L, N & H. Keep an eye out for our beautiful bulletin board "My Hands Can..." The week of November 10, we will be focusing on **Food**. We'll look at how to create a healthy plate and spend time talking about fruits, vegetables, soup (where all the parts of a healthy plate can come together) and desserts. We'll look at liquids and solids, creating solutions and how temperature changes our ingredients. Our class will be making Stone Soup. An email request for ingredients will come out the first week of November. The Letter of the Week will be S. The week of November 17, we will talk about the **Thanksgiving Story**. We'll talk about the Pilgrims who traveled far from home, had a hard time growing and finding food and the Indians who helped them. We'll emphasize helping others and being thankful for what we have. We will even

make a Class Quilt of Thankfulness! The Letter of the Week will be T. Finally, the very short week of November 24th (our class is only at school on Tuesday and Wednesday) is all about the **Thanksgiving Feast**. We will prepare and eat a Thanksgiving meal with the 3/4s class on Tuesday, November 25. More information and a sign-up sheet will be out toward the end of the month regarding our feast. We will also share about the foods and family we will be enjoying over the long Thanksgiving weekend.

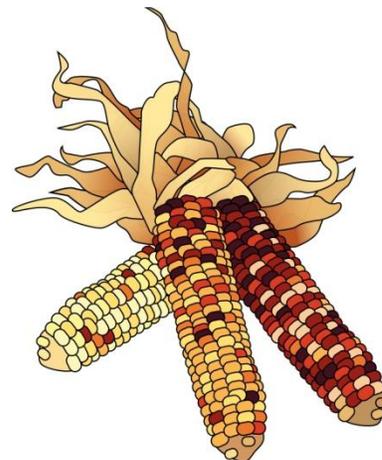
Important upcoming dates to remember:

November 4 No School, **November 7** Picture Day, **November 22** Barnes & Noble Fundraiser, **November 28 & November 29** No School.

With the coming cool weather, please remember to switch out your child's Change of Clothes with long sleeves and pants. Also, please label your child's coat, mittens and hat with his/her name.

I am so very thankful for our wonderful class of friends, the other teachers and aides at PNS, and the wonderful parents who make our class and our cooperative nursery school such a special place. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to work at PNS each day. Thank you!

Ms. Ryan



CLASS PHOTO SITES

We are pleased to see so many of you are utilizing our class photo sites on Shutterfly. The pictures you've been sharing offer so many wonderful glimpses of day-to-day activities at PNS. In May we will order class photo books using your pictures so keep uploading them! One quick reminder about our Shutterfly pages, these sites are only to be used by PNS parents. They cannot be shared with members of your extended families or friends. For the safety and privacy of our students we ask that you not give out any information about our class pages.

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

It's time for the annual PNS holiday food drive! All donations are to support the Providence Presbyterian's food pantry which supplies food goods to members of our community regardless of religious affiliation. The collection boxes will be in both the main and back hallways where families can leave donations of canned and boxed goods. We will take the boxes upstairs as they fill up. The kids love to help with this and learn the importance of giving to those less fortunate. Stay tuned to your email for more details soon.

WINTER WEATHER REMINDERS

- With cooler weather upon us, don't forget to update your child's emergency clothes.
- Emailing the school or class yahoo groups is the quickest and most effective method we have of distributing information. You should always pay close attention to school email and at no time is this more important than when we are experiencing inclement weather. School delays and cancellations will be announced through the pnsall yahoo group. We do follow FCPS for all closings and delays.
- Please make sure you label all hats, coats, scarves and mittens that your children bring to school. This is the only way to make it sure they make it home! It is helpful if mittens are tucked into the sleeves of jackets.

ENRICHMENT

Wonderful Wednesday

November brings weather that makes riding bikes outside a little less enjoyable, so we have booked two presentations for the month! On November 5th at 11:30 am Mother Goose The Story Teller will visit. The kids will get to dress up and act out the

story as Mother Goose herself (in full costume) reads some of our favorite classics. This will be a great time to bring the camera and get some unique pictures of you little one in character. Then on November 12th at 11:30 am a Nutritionist from Fairfax County Public Schools will come and read to the kids, then talk with them about building healthy eating habits.

Bryna Erickson

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Each family enrolled in a co-oping class must complete eight volunteer hours during the school year. CDO-only families are required to do two. Here are some opportunities to earn your volunteer hours. We hope that you are able to complete half of your hours during the first half of the school year. Here are some ideas to help you get those hours in before winter break!

- Help out with Picture Day, November 6th and 7th. Contact Lori Thomas for more information.
- Wednesday, Nov 5th - Lunch Bunch sub needed from 12:30 – 1:30.
- Monday, November 17th and Tuesday, November 18th – Subs needed in the CDO and 2s classes during parent/teacher conferences.
- Saturday, November 22rd – Volunteers needed to help with Barnes and Noble Day, contact Liz Claeys or Alex Erickson for more information.
- December 5th & 6th – Volunteers needed to help with Holiday Shop, contact Liz Claeys or Alex Erickson for details.
- Check in with Rob and Mary Ellen Moss, our maintenance chairs. There are plenty of projects that need to be done aside from our scheduled clean-up and maintenance days. They will especially need help with raking the leaves off the playground over the next few weeks.
- Attend the board meeting November 10th @ 7:30pm

Reminder: Please report volunteer hours and parent education hours to Kristen Konisky vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.com

ADULT EDUCATION

Please join us on November 10th, 6:30-7:30 PM (prior to the November Board Meeting) in the Big Room for "Supporting Preschoolers' Play and Social Skills Development." Peggy Smorodin, an FCPS Early Childhood Resource Teacher, will discuss children's social and emotional development and will provide tips on helping your children develop important friendship and anger management skills. A question/answer period will follow her presentation. Come hear an informative talk, enjoy light refreshments, and earn one Parent Education hour. Contact Kristen Browning with any questions about this event.

Save the Date: Friday, December 5th, 9:45-10:45 AM
(location of talk at PNS to be determined)

Carol Muleta from the Parent Encouragement Program (PEP) of Kensington, MD, will present:

Raising "I Can" Kids

A child's "I Can Quotient" is a more important indicator of ability to thrive in life than the traditional IQ. Learn strategies to increase your child's sense of feeling connected, capable, competent and courageous. A question/answer period will follow Ms. Muleta's presentation. Younger siblings are welcome to attend the talk. Refreshments will be served, and participants will earn one Parent Education hour.

FUNDRAISING

Plan to join us for the official Providence Nursery School Bookfair on Saturday, November 22nd. We will have story times and activities from 10:00 through 2:30. Mention the preschool at any register when you check out (including the Starbucks Cafe!) and we will receive credit for your purchase any time that day. Friends and family can also shop online all week afterwards with our code. Look for more details on PNS all as the date gets closer. The schedule of events for the day is -

10:00 Stories with Ms. Auten

11:00 Stories with Ms. Susan

12:00 Music with Ms. Allison

1:00 Stories with Mrs. Millward

2:00 Stories with Ms. Ryan

We will also have face painting from 10 till noon, and crafts in the Cafe in between stories.

If you have not already turned in a holiday shop form but plan to participate, please send in the form ASAP. This is a fun morning and a great way to let your kids easily shop for family gifts. We'll have crafts, snacks,

family photo times and a visit from Santa!

If you are looking for a fun way to earn some volunteer hours helping us with either of these events, please contact Liz or Alex. We will need craft and face painting help at Barnes & Noble Day, and there are lots of jobs for holiday shop - set-up on Friday night, contributing food, helping with crafts, and helping kids shop for presents.

As always, contact Liz Claeys or Alex Erickson with any questions. Thanks for supporting PNS!

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you for reading the PNS newsletter. If there is anything you would like to have published in the December Newsletter please submit it by November 20th. If you have any suggestions or things you would like to see in the newsletter don't hesitate to let me know.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Carroll
newsletter@providencenurseryschool.com

THANK YOU!

Thanks to Kristen Rule and Arnaldo Carvalho for all their hard work getting our fish tank back up and running this year. The new fish are a BIG hit with the kids!

Thanks to our wonderful Dress Up Coordinators, Jocelyn Crawford and Emily Chitnis for organizing the dress up closets and doing a great job pulling out the costumes for our kids every week.

Thank you to Maliha Ahmad for keeping us on top of fire safety by coordinating our monthly drills and making sure our first-aid kits are well-stocked.

Thank you to Bryna Erickson who subbed for lunch bunch during the October teacher luncheon.

Thank you to Anja Wright, Kristen Browning, Brinda Nayak and Allison Hagner who subbed during parent/teacher brunches.

Thank you to our field trip organizers – Melissa Ahern (3s), Emily Sherron (3/4s), and CarolAnn Forrest (4s) for setting up the first few field trips of the year.

Thank you to all who attended our October clean-up and maintenance day for keeping the school clean and safe for our kids: Rob Moss, Devin Blythe, Jay Sherron, Greg Thomas, Kristin Rule, Ravi Kamath, Beth Ann Clare, Rick Brown, Mike Lewis, Jason Fogarty, Allison Hagner. Thank you to Christina Pak and Robin Kang for leading the cleaning effort.

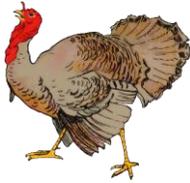
Thank you to all who participated in our Posh Pouches, Color Me Mine, and Disney On Ice fundraisers. Thank you to Bridget Benov and Feld Entertainment for the generous donation of Disney On Ice tickets.

Thank you to Anja Wright for making the colorful batches of playdoh our children have been enjoying each week.

A special thank you to our incredible teaching staff for all they do for our children each day: Jane Millward, Susan Patton, Ryan Bianchetti, Jessie Auten, Phyllis Bruyette, Emmy Cade, Janet Mays, Kelly Volciak and Allison Hagner.

Most importantly, thank you to ALL of our PNS parents. It is the hard work and dedication of our parents that make our school so special!

NOVEMBER 2013

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
						1 Tuition Due
2	3 NO SCHOOL	4 NO SCHOOL	5	6 <i>School Pictures 2s, & 3/4s</i>	7 <i>School Pictures CDO, 3s, & 4s</i>	8
9	10 Board Meeting 7:30pm	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i>	12	13	14	15 <i>Clean your Refrigerator Day</i>
16	17 <i>Parent Teacher Conferences- CDO</i>	18 <i>Parent Teacher Conferences- 2s</i>	19	20	21 <i>World Hello Day</i>	22 Barnes and Noble Fundraiser!
23/30	24	25 Thanksgiving Luncheon- 3/4s&4s	26	27 NO SCHOOL <i>Thanksgiving</i>	28 NO SCHOOL	29